## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 24 - page 9, line 2 as follows.

Figures 4-8 show various views of the latch portion 3 of Figure 1. The latch portion 3 is comprised of a latching member and a receiving portion. Referring to Figure 4, the latch portion 3 has a first surface 31 which abuts the lower wing 73 of the slider body portion 7 and a front abutting surface 33 which in use abuts the latch portion 3 of a corresponding slider. The abutting surface 33 of the latch portion 3 is laterally divided into a portion bearing a protrusion 35 and a portion bearing a tapered mouth 37. The protrusion 35 has a mushroom shaped cross section, comprised of a neck portion 39 adjacent to the abutting surface 33 and a rounded head portion 41 distal to the abutting surface 33. The protrusion 35 constitutes the latching member.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 3-7 as follows.

Referring to Figure 6, the tapered mouth 37 has a mushroom shaped cross section which can accommodate the protrusion 35. It is comprised of a neck portion 43 which narrows from ~~it~~ its opening 45 to form a ridge 47 with a cross section smaller than the cross section of the widest point 49 of the head 41 of the protrusion 35. Beyond the ridge 47, the tapered mouth 37 widens to form a head 55. The tapered mouth 37 constitutes a receiving portion for receiving a latching member. The latching member and the receiving portion are integrally molded to form the latch portion 3. In the latch portion 3, the latching member is disposed beside the receiving portion for receiving the latching member of a mating latch portion.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 20-27 as follows.

Referring to Figure 3, there are two saw-tooth shaped notches 95 located along the outside 97 of the head 93 of the protrusion 89. Each notch 95 has a sloped surface 99 and an upright surface. The sloped surface 99 of the notches faces towards the front 81 of the slider body portion 7. The upright surface of the notches 95 faces toward the rear of the slider body portion 7. Referring to Figure 7, there are two corresponding recesses 61 in the cavity 57 in the first surface 31 of the latching portion 3. Leading up to each of these recesses 61 are ramps 63 along which the sloped surface 99 of the notches 95 ~~run~~ slide when the slider body portion 7 is inserted into the cavity 57 in the first surface 31 of the latching portion 3. Figure 9 is a section through plane IX-IX of Figure 1, ~~which shows the engagement of the notches 95 with the recesses 61~~ which shows that the notches 95 have been inserted into the recesses

61 until the upright surfaces of the notches 95 are brought into abutting engagement with the relevant sides of the recesses 61, so that the notches 95 are engaged with the recesses 61.

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines 3-5 as follows.

Referring to Figure 1, it can be seen that two identical first and second sliders ~~slider body portions~~ 1, 2 can be latched together. The latch portion 3 of each slider 1, 2 includes the latching member and the receiving portion. The first slider 1 has a first receiving portion disposed on its latch portion 3. The second slider 2 has a first latching member disposed on its latch portion 3 and adapted for engagement with the first receiving portion of the first slider 1. Furthermore, the second slider 2 has a second receiving portion disposed on its latch portion 3. The first slider 1 has a second latching member disposed on its latch portion 3 and adapted for engagement with the second receiving portion of the second slider 2. This means that each slider 1, 2 has a latch portion 3 of the same construction disposed on the underneath side of its slider body portion. This has the advantage that a small number of parts is required to make up a pair of mating sliders 1, 2.

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines 6-14 as follows.

A force must be applied to engage two sliders 1, 2 in order to push the head 41 of the protrusion 35 of each latch portion 3 beyond the ridge 47 of the corresponding tapered mouth 37 in the abutting surface 33 of the other latch body portion 3. The force required depends on the geometry of the protrusion 35 and the tapered mouth 37 and the material from which they are made. The arrangement provides a snap fit connection between the latch portions 3. Preferably a force of between 15 and 25N is required to pull the latch portions apart. Further preferably a force of between 18N and 22N is required to pull the latch portions apart. Further preferably a force of 20N is required to pull the latch portions apart. Either or both of the ridge 47 and the head 41 are subjected to elastic deformation. With elastic deformation, the head 41 comes into engagement with the ridge 47, to thus provide a snap fit connection between the latch portions 3; and the head 41 comes out of engagement with the ridge 47, so that the latch portions 3 are separated.